

# **Public Involvement**

**US 51/WIS 29 Corridor-Wausau  
Foxglove Road to Bridge Street  
US 51  
Marathon County**

**ID 1166-09-32**

**Wausau-Merrill  
Various Bridges  
US 51  
Marathon County**

**ID 1170-01-36/37**



**April 18, 2024 to May 17, 2024**

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service for assistance by dialing 711.

## Purpose

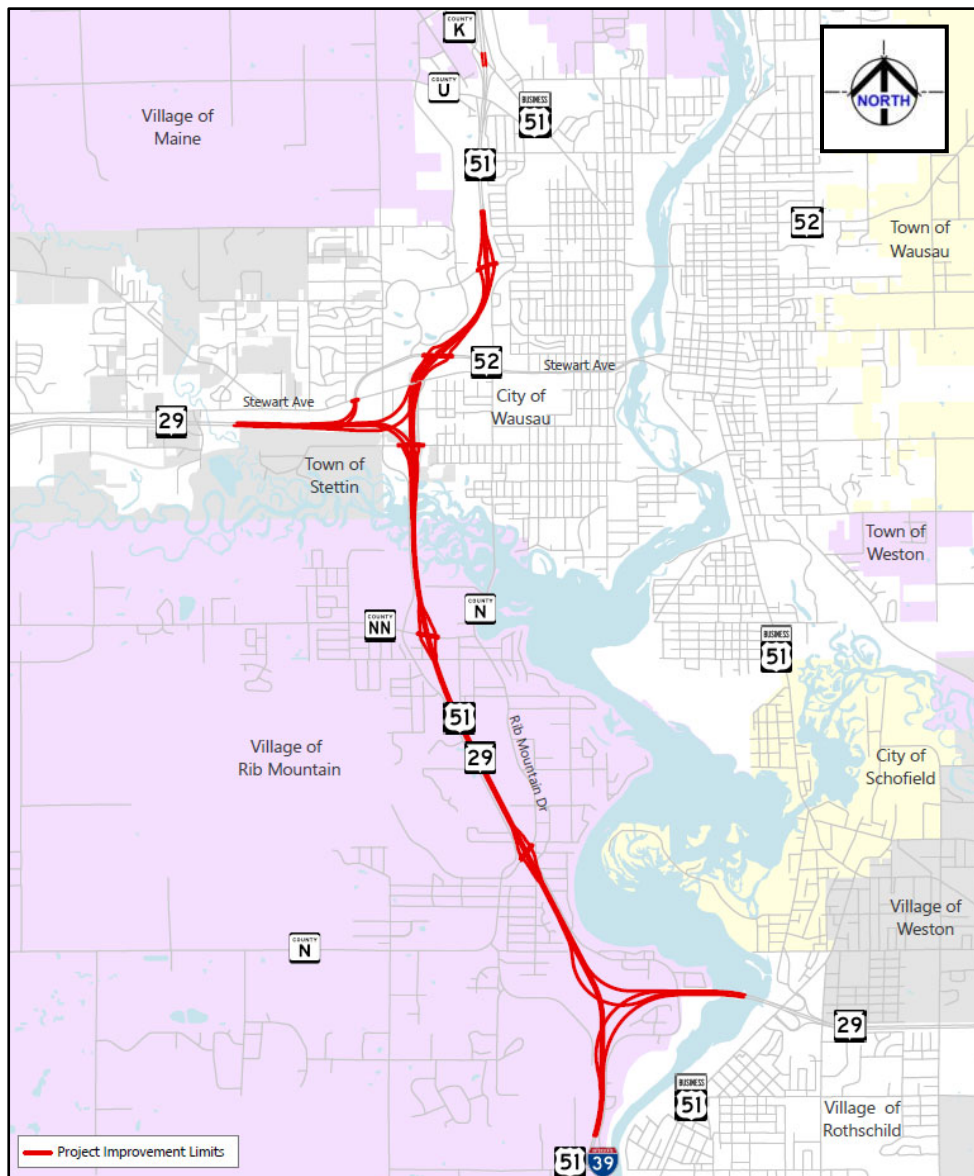
The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of developing plans to improve the US 51/WIS 29 corridor in the Wausau metro area in Marathon County.

The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements and provide an opportunity for public comment.

## Project information

The project is located along approximately 7-miles of the US 51/WIS 29 corridor from Foxglove Road to Bridge Street. The project area also includes approximately 1-mile of WIS 29 east and west of US 51 including the WIS 29 system interchanges and the service interchanges at County N, County NN, Sherman Street, WIS 29 ramps to WIS 52/Stewart Avenue, WIS 52 and Bridge Street. The bridges over Bus 51/County K are also included in the project area.

The project is located in the city of Wausau, villages of Rothschild and Rib Mountain and town of Stettin.



### Purpose

The US 51/WIS 29 corridor including all of the interchanges and bridges were reconstructed from 2004 to 2008 to modern standards to improve traffic flow and safety through the Wausau metro area.

The existing concrete pavement is currently exhibiting signs of deterioration with transverse and joint cracking.

There are other needs that have been identified throughout the project area:

- Cracking and sinking of pavement on the asphalt shoulders.
- Deteriorating and outdated guardrails do not meet current design standards.
- Deterioration of curb and gutter and drainage inlets at interchanges.
- Curb ramps do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards at the interchanges.
- Bridge decks are showing signs of deterioration including delaminating (breaking away) of existing polymer overlays which are in place to provide long-term preservation of bridge decks. The joints on the southbound US 51 bridge over the Big Rib River are deteriorating.

### Proposed improvements

This is a pavement preservation project. Proposed improvements include:

- Concrete joint repairs and concrete slab replacements.
- Mill and overlay of the existing asphalt shoulders, gores, and median turnarounds.
- Replace asphalt shoulders with concrete adjacent to concrete barrier along the County N exit ramps and the County NN southbound entrance ramp.
- Replace the high friction surface treatment along the ramp from westbound WIS 29 to northbound US 51 to maintain safe conditions.
- Replace all guardrails (approximately 120 locations).
- Spot curb and gutter replacements and repair select inlets at the interchanges.
- Upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA standards at four interchanges: Sherman Street, WIS 29 ramps to WIS 52/Stewart Avenue, WIS 52 and Bridge Street.
- Complete polymer overlays on 16 bridges within the WIS 29 west, Sherman Street, WIS 52, and Bus 51/County K interchanges to preserve the bridge decks.
- Replace the joints on each end of the US 51 southbound bridge over the Big Rib River.
- Replace all pavement marking.

## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2025 or 2026.

- All pavement, shoulder and guardrail repairs are anticipated to be completed under single lane closures along US 51, WIS 29, and the local roads at the interchanges.
- When work is occurring directly on or at access points adjacent to the interchange ramps (i.e. pavement repairs and bridges), ramp closures will be required.
- Detours will be posted during any state highway ramp closures.

The final traffic staging will be designed by WisDOT's design-build team.

## Real estate

All work will be completed within the existing highway right of way. No additional real estate will be required.

## Project update/next steps

- Initial data collection and preparation of concept plans – spring and summer 2024
- Local officials meeting – April 16, 2024
- Public involvement comment period – April 18 to May 17
- Environmental document – summer 2024
- Solicitation for a design-build contractor – fall 2024
- Award of design-build contract – spring 2025
- Construction – 2025 or 2026

## Public input/comments

Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process.

There are several ways to submit your input by **May 17, 2024**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Complete the fillable online survey on the project website  
<https://wisconsin.dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/us51marathonwis29/default.aspx>
3. Email comments or questions to the contact(s) listed below

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service by dialing 711.

For more information, please contact:

Zachary Gruling, P.E.  
WisDOT Project Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
Phone: (715) 365-5764  
Email: [Zachary.Gruling@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Zachary.Gruling@dot.wi.gov)

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# In This Together Program

A quick guide to help your business prepare for road construction

## 1 ORGANIZE EARLY

- Learn more about the project and its timeline
- Develop questions for WisDOT staff
- Check in with neighboring businesses and/or local business organization

- *Can you partner on promotions, events or materials?*
- *Establish a point of contact for the business community?*

## 2 STAY ENGAGED WITH THE PROJECT

- Attend public involvement meeting(s)
- Make note of contact information for the project team, and voice the unique needs of your business
- Learn more about project resources

- *Is there a construction website?*
- *Is there a mailing list?*
- *Is there an email distribution?*

## 3 HELP CUSTOMERS FIND YOU

- Consult with project staff to determine when and where there may be closures or detours
- Ask about temporary signage options
- Consider how best to inform customers

- *Maybe a joint communication with neighboring businesses for employees and customers about traffic and parking?*
- *Maybe a feature article in a customer-facing newsletter?*
- *Maybe a social media post shared by businesses and local community pages?*

## 4 DEVELOP AND ACTIVATE YOUR GAME PLAN

- Check out case studies at [wisconsindot.gov/together](http://wisconsindot.gov/together)
- Connect with project contacts to discuss any potential obstacles specific to your business such as deliveries, operational hours, employee parking, etc.
- Check in with employees

- *Is there a consistent message for customers?*
- *Are there temporary changes to shift times, parking, or deliveries?*

## 5 END OF CONSTRUCTION

- Stay positive, be flexible and know that WisDOT staff are available to help
- Collect any temporary signage
- Let customers know!

- *Consider working with other businesses on a special event?*
- *Share social media about the project's benefits?*
- *Ask customers to help spread the word?*

 Remember, we are In This Together! For more planning ideas, tips and resources: [wisconsindot.gov/together](http://wisconsindot.gov/together)



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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
Attn: Zachary Gruling

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